

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 /164 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:RKSSHERWOOD:IW

APPROVED BY P:WJPORTER

AF: WWITMAN

NEA (INFO)

S/S - MR. MILLER

----- 046211

R 060142Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IV, XF

SUBJ: HOUPHOUET MESSAGE

REF: STATE 236078 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR AHOUA SAW UNDER SECRETARY PORTER (THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WAS AT BEN GURION'S FUNERAL) DEC. 4 WITH A MESSAGE FROM HOUPHOUET. MESSAGE ORAL AND LIMITED TO BRIEF EXPLANATION WHY IT HAD BEEN NECESSARY TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. KEY WAS NEED FOR AFRICAN SOLIDARITY. HOUPHOUET WAS OBLIGED BY HEAVY PRESSURES TO GO ALONG WITH HIS COLLEAGUES. HOUPHOUET HAD EARLIER WARNED ISRAELI AMBASSADOR OF THIS POSSIBILITY WHEN HE CALLED HIM TO PARIS FOR THAT PURPOSE IN EARLY NOVEMBER. AHOUA STATED THAT GOIC BELIEVES ISRAELI GOVERNMENT FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE REASON FOR THE DECISION, AND POINTED OUT THAT THE "ESSENTIAL" ASPECT OF THEIR RELATIONS IS BEING PRESERVED - NAMELY BUSINESS AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. AN ISRAELI FIRST

SECRETARY IN THE BELGIAN EMBASSY IN ABIDJAN WILL ASSURE THE UNINTERRUPTED CONTINUATION OF THESE LINKS.

2. THE UNDER SECRETARY EXPRESSED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE PRESSURES THAT LED TO HOUPHOUET'S DECISION AND OUR APPRECIATION THAT HE HAD SEEN FIT TO KEEP US SO FULLY INFORMED. WE PLACE A VERY HIGH VALUE ON THE EXCELLENT STATE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH IVORY COAST, EXEMPLIFIED BY HOUPHOUET'S RECENT VISIT, AND HIS PRESENT MESSAGE IS ANOTHER INDICATION OF OUR CLOSE TIES. UNDER SECRETARY ASSURED AHOUA THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD BE INFORMED OF THE MESSAGE, AND ASKED THAT THE SECRETARY'S BEST WISHES BE CONVEYED TO HOUPHOUET.

3. UNDER SECRETARY ALSO STRESSED OUR HOPE THAT, WHILE MANY DETAILS AND POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS REMAINED, FORTH-COMING CONFERENCE AND SUBSEQUENT MOVES ON MIDDLE EAST CRISIS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL, AND, AMONG OTHER RESULTS, PERMIT REESTABLISHMENT RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE AFRICAN NATIONS WHICH HAD FELT COMPELLED TO BREAK WITH HER.

4. FRIENDLY MEETING ENDED WITH AHOUA REITERATING THANKS FOR THE ATTENTION WHICH HOUPHOUET AND ALL MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY RECEIVED DURING THE OCTOBER VISIT.

5. AHOUA PLANS RETURN IC NEAR FUTURE. MAIN PURPOSE OF TRIP APPEARS RELATED TO ONGOING INVESTMENT PROJECTS RATHER THAN REPLY TO HOUPHOUET'S MESSAGE. KISSINGER

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TAGS: PFOR, ECON, XF, XI, IV, IS, (HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, FELIX), (PORTER, WILLIAM J)
To: ABIDJAN
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